Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 17-23 and 27-40 are pending. Claims 27 and 36-39 have been allowed. Claims 21-22 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. More specifically, the Office Action indicates that "there is nothing in the specification disclosing no intermediate coating therebetween." Applicants' respectfully disagree. For example, the present application provides that "a polymer coating, such as parylene is deposited on the surface of a bonding tool." (See page 3, lines 17-18 of the originally filed application) (emphasis added). Further, Fig. 9 (and the supporting text on page 4, line 26 through page 5, line 8 of the originally filed application) illustrates a process by which the polymer coating is applied to the bonding tool with no intermediate coating. Further still, Figs. 2B and 3B illustrate that the polymer coating is applied directly to the bonding tool (there is no intermediate coating therebetween). Thus, Applicants' respectfully request that the rejection of claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, be withdrawn.

Claims 17-20, 23, and 28-35 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gilding (U.S. Patent No. 4,049,506) and further in view of Evans (U.S. Patent No. 4,950,365). Applicants respectfully disagree with the rejection of the claims at least for the reasons outlined in the Amendment dated October 30, 2006. Nonetheless, Applicants have amended claim 17 to further distinguish the claim from Gilding and Evans.

Claim 17, as amended, recites the step of "coating at least a portion of an exterior surface of the tip portion, and at least a portion of an interior surface of the tip portion, with a polymer." Thus, claim 17 now recites that at least a portion of an exterior and an interior surface of the tip portion is coated with a polymer. This step is neither disclosed nor suggested by art of record.

Gilding discloses a method for applying an electrodeposited or silicone layer to a bonding tool. As provided in the present Office Action, "Gilding fails to teach a polymer coating, polyparaxylenes, on the exterior of the tip portion . . . [of the bonding tool] However, Evans

discloses the method of coating a polyparaxylene to a hard surface to retain its hard, wear resistant surface, its decorative tone and its resistance to corrosion . . ."

Evans relates to coating metal substrates (e.g., screwdriver blades, drill bits, saw blades, wrenches, pliers, socket sets, screws, hammer heads, hinges, nuts drivers, shears, and the like) with a hard coated metal compound layer, and then applying another polymeric layer (e.g., a parylene layer) to the hard coated metal compound layer (See Abstract; column 3, line 64 through column 4, line 9; and column 4, lines 46-50). Evans provides the substrate coating (i.e., the hard coated metal compound layer and the additional soft polymeric coating) "so that the substrate is wear resistant, decorative and corrosion free even after substantial use . . ." (See column, 3, lines 59-62). Such benefits (e.g., wear resistance, decorative nature, corrosion resistance) are clearly applicable to the exterior surface of a metal substrate (e.g., a screwdriver blade, a drill bit, a hammer head, etc).

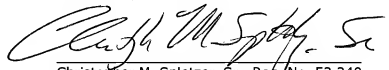
Applicants respectfully submit that the application of a polymer coating to at least a portion of both an interior and exterior surface of a tip portion of a bonding tool (as in amended claim 17) is not obvious in view of Gilding and Evans. For example, applying a polymer coating to the interior surface of a tip portion of a bonding tool provides no decorative benefit. Further, the corrosion resistant benefits (which are useful for the metal tools/substrates of Evans) are not particularly applicable to capillary bonding tools which are typically formed of a ceramic or the like. Further still, there are two coatings applied to the metal substrate in Evans, where claim 17 recites a single coating.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is patentable over the art of record. Claims 18-23, 28-35, and 40 depend from claim 17, either directly or indirectly, and as such, are also patentable over the art of record.

Further, Applicants continue to respectfully submit that claim 40 is also patentable over the art of record because it recites at least one feature neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record. Claim 40 recites "coating at least the portion of the exterior surface of the tip portion directly with the polymer without providing an intermediate coating therebetween." (emphasis added). In contrast, Evans teaches application of a polymer coating after applying a hard metal coating to the metal substrate (See column 3, line 64 through column 4, line 4).

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative by telephone in order to advance prosecution of the present application

Respectfully submitted,



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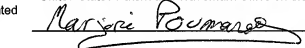

Marjorie Poumaroux